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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 002755

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [MOPS](#) [UK](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: IRAQ-UK SECURITY AGREEMENT APPROVED BY COUNCIL OF
REPRESENTATIVES

REF: A. BAGHDAD 2662
[B](#). BAGHDAD 2273
[C](#). SECSTATE 91299

Classified By: Political Military Minister Counselor Cameron Munter for
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#). (C) Iraq's Council of Representatives (COR) passed the UK bilateral security agreement October 13 with 139 votes. British Defense Attach Brigadier Ben Bathurst said the British Ambassador had been working closely with Iraqi Speaker Ayad al-Samarraie to encourage the passing of the agreement. Bathurst said that only the Sadrists opposed the agreement, and so al-Samarraie, who wanted the agreement to pass, waited until at least 180 representatives showed up to introduce the agreement. Some 30-40 Sadrists walked out as expected, but the 139 votes in favor was just enough to reach a quorum. Bathurst added that British troops and trainers temporarily assigned elsewhere in the region, while waiting for the COR to reconvene after Ramadan (ref B), would return. The British ships could come back into Iraq's waters on short notice, once the Iraqi Presidency ratifies the agreement and NAVCENT is prepared to switch US ships with Royal Navy ships.

[2](#). (C) According to the Iraqi press, the Sadrists are challenging the agreement, claiming that al-Samarraie and his deputy, Khalid al-Atiya, passed the agreement illegally. Bathurst said that the Sadrists made this claim once they returned to the COR chamber, but that they had no basis and the session continued uninterrupted.

[3](#). (C) Comment: Per ref A, Post continued to press PM Maliki on passing the UK security agreement in previous weeks. The Ambassador also raised this with al-Samarraie on October 11. We are encouraged by the cementing of this important relationship and the continuation of the UK's naval training mission in and around the port of Umm Qasr. End comment.
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